

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 47-54 and 56-59 are pending and are currently under examination. In addition; claim 62 has been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to renewal. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 47-54 and 56-59 are allowed.

Drawings

In the Office Action, the drawings, which were submitted on April 12, 2001, remain objected to for the reasons of record. In particular, it was noted that Figures 2 and 7 were "too dark and the details of the photographs cannot be discerned" (*see*, Office Action mailed February 27, 2003).

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants submit concurrently herewith copies of Figures 2 and 7 in color, together with the required Petition and fee. As noted in the Petition, these color drawings illustrate certain benefits of the invention and are of a nature that renders it impracticable for them to be fully illustrated without the use of color. Further, it is noted that the specification has been amended to reflect that some of the Figures contained in the patent application are in color.

In view of newly submitted Figures 2 and 7, Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining concerns relating to the figures have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants urge the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, claim 62 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Vannucchi *et al.* (*Haematologica*, 80:341-343 (1995)).

Without acquiescing to this rejection, and in order to expedite prosecution of the present case, claim 62 has been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to renewal. Accordingly, Applicants urge the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

Appl. No. 09/834,760
Amdt. dated October 30, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 31, 2006

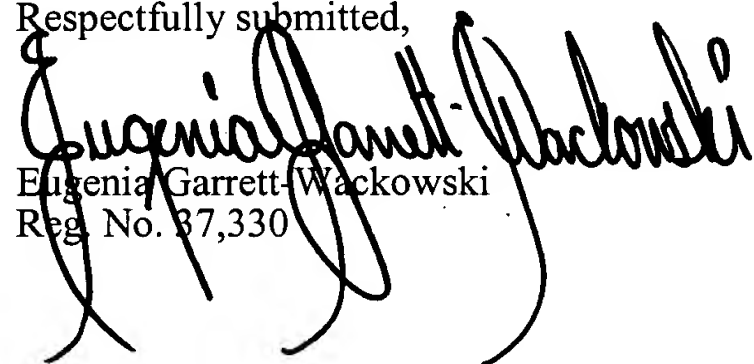
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugenia Garrett-Wackowski", is written over the typed name and registration number.

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